



# City Administrator's Report

November 2011

Dear Reader,

*Each month, this report from the City Administrator's Office provides a brief summary and update of major activities, events, projects, and programs that impact the Santa Barbara community. Please share your comments and suggestions with us.*

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## Key Meetings

*City Council* Tuesdays, November 1, 15, 22; 2 p.m.

## Community Events

*Election Day* Tuesday, November 8

*Electronic Waste Recycling* Friday and Saturday, November 11 and 12;  
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; Sears parking lot at  
3845 State Street

*Downtown Holiday Parade* Friday, December 2; 6:30 p.m.; State Street

## Flags on State Street

*Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse* October 24 – November 4

*Election Day/Veterans Day* November 4 – 14

*Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care* November 14 – 21

*Holiday Flags* November 21 – December 5

## City Administrator

***Two-Week Closure Planned for City Offices.*** Most City administrative offices will be [closed](#) Wednesday, November 23 – Friday, November 25, and Monday, December 19 – Monday, January 2 due to furlough (unpaid leave for employees) and holiday schedules. While most administrative offices will be closed, many services will continue to be available. The 9-1-1

dispatch service for police and fire emergencies will also continue operating during this time. The City's airport, marina, golf course, public parking lots, and selected community centers and recreation facilities will remain open. The Central and Eastside Libraries will operate on a revised schedule.

**Energy Efficiency Financing for City Residents.** Are you interested in making energy efficiency improvements to your house, such as installing new windows or adding insulation? The County of Santa Barbara recently launched the [emPowerSBC](#) program, which connects City and County residents to financing options and statewide rebates for qualifying residential energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

## Airport

**September Passenger Count.** The passenger count for September was 60,539, down 6.0% compared with September 2010. The total passenger count year-to-date is 549,558, down 4.5% compared to the same period last year. The highest average passenger loads were aboard *Alaska Airlines* flights to Seattle (90.6%), *United Airlines* flights to Denver (90.1%), *American Eagle* flights to LAX (87.4%).

**Plan Ahead for Holiday Flights.** Thanksgiving weekend is one of the most heavily traveled times for airports. Passengers are advised to plan ahead and arrive early at the airport to ensure a safe and enjoyable holiday travel experience. As part of the Airline Terminal Project, the Airport will experience intermittent lane closures within the airline terminal loop road due to the construction of roadway and infrastructure improvements. Additionally, with the lane closures, all commercial vendor deliveries will take place in the passenger drop-off lane. Visitors to the Airport are encouraged to use extra caution when driving in this area. Travelers are encouraged to park in **Long Term Parking Lot 2** off Hollister Avenue and Frederick Lopez Road and to use the free Airport shuttle for easy access to and from the airline terminal.

**New Coffee Shop to Open.** A second Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf will open on the first floor of the Airline Terminal building the week of November 7 and will be available to both visitors and ticketed passengers. The menu will include beverages and sandwiches. Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf will offer 10% off all drinks November 21 – 23 at the first floor location.

## Community Development

**Planning Commission Meetings.** On November 3, the Commission held a meeting to decide on a Coastal Development Permit for proposed T-hangars at the Airport and review a draft Environmental Impact Report for a proposed Hillside House development of 121 residential units and administrative offices at 1235 Veronica Springs Road. The project is a proposal from the property owners and operators of the Hillside House, a residential facility for people with developmental disabilities. The proposed project includes:

- Forty affordable apartments: twelve for very-low income Hillside House residents and twenty-eight for low-income rental residents that the County Housing will administer;
- Eighty-one condominiums: eleven for middle or upper-middle income residents and seventy priced at market rate.

- Site improvements include a new public street, off-site storm drain improvement along Veronica Springs Road, pedestrian path to Palermo Road, and creek restoration along Arroyo Burro Creek.

On November 10, the Commission will make a decision on a Coastal Development Permit for vegetation removal in and around the Andree Clark Bird Refuge, 1400-1700 East Cabrillo Boulevard and will receive an update on the construction at the Cottage Workforce Housing Project (Bella Riviera) at 601 East Micheltorena Street.

**Greyhound is Moving!** Greyhound will move from its current location at 34 West Carrillo Street to 224 Chapala Street at the railroad depot. Greyhound will occupy half of the building and is expected to begin operation there next year. With this addition, the train depot will now be a multimodal transportation hub.

## Finance

**September 2011 Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Update.** September 2011 was another strong month for TOT, with collections of \$1,254,577 and growth of 8.6% over the same month last year. September 2011 had one more weekend day than September 2010, likely contributing to the strong growth. The adopted budget for TOT assumes 4.5% growth overall. Based on year-to-date growth of 9.2% at the end of the first quarter, we are approximately \$178,400 above the current year's budget. This revenue will be closely monitored during the cooler months later this year that typically have lower TOT collections to see if the strong growth rates hold despite continuing economic uncertainty.

City of Santa Barbara								
TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAXES								
Month	FY 2009	Change Prior Year	FY 2010	Change Prior Year	FY 2011	Change Prior Year	FY 2012	Change Prior Year
July	\$ 1,631,965	1.2%	\$ 1,393,219	-14.6%	\$ 1,571,324	12.8%	\$ 1,763,206	12.2%
Aug	1,820,811	10.6%	1,474,189	-19.0%	1,591,121	7.9%	1,697,686	6.7%
Sept	1,196,294	-1.8%	1,106,152	-7.5%	1,154,834	4.4%	1,254,577	8.6%
Oct	1,049,515	-2.4%	944,230	-10.0%	1,058,405	12.1%		
Nov	770,009	-11.6%	672,636	-12.6%	752,641	11.9%		
Dec	599,323	-10.4%	588,594	-1.8%	651,909	10.8%		
Jan	680,474	-1.6%	685,633	0.8%	692,393	1.0%		
Feb	643,342	-20.7%	683,280	6.2%	742,361	8.6%		
Mar	760,032	-24.0%	823,759	8.4%	825,040	0.2%		
April	930,516	-2.9%	957,350	2.9%	1,060,466	10.8%		
May	944,898	-15.5%	1,001,965	6.0%	1,093,703	9.2%		
June	1,010,973	-19.9%	1,133,124	12.1%	1,264,961	11.6%		
FY Total	\$ 12,038,153	-6.9%	\$ 11,464,132	-4.8%	\$ 12,459,157	8.7%	\$ 4,715,469	9.2%
Budget							\$ 12,865,000	3.3%

**Electronic Waste Recycling.** In celebration of America Recycles Day, the City is hosting an electronic waste event on Friday and Saturday, November 11 and 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Sears parking lot at 3845 State Street. Bring your old televisions, computers, laptops, keyboards, printers, mice, hard drives, fax machines, microwave ovens, DVD players, VCRs, cables and cords, telephones, cell phones, radios, shredders, stereo components, power

supplies, tape and zip drives, and business and consumer electronic devices. **We cannot accept large appliances, toner cartridges, fluorescent bulbs, or batteries of any kind.**

## Fire

**“Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery”** The Fire Department recommends that you replace the batteries in your smoke alarms when you change your clocks back for daylight-savings time. Most alarms are battery operated or have battery backup features, so it is important to change them periodically. It is also important to test your alarms each month to ensure that they are in working order. Smoke alarms save lives when operating properly.

**Tsunami Ready City.** The City of Santa Barbara is in its final stages to become a TsunamiReady™ city, based on requirements from the National Weather Service. Approximately fifty-eight signs are being installed throughout the potential inundation areas that visually explain what to do in case of an emergency. These signs will indicate when you are in, entering, or leaving an area that has potential for flooding from a tsunami. Evacuation route signs will also be displayed at selected key intersections.

**“Fill the Boot” for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.** City firefighters kicked off the annual “Fill the Boot” fundraising campaign for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. This year’s event raised over \$5,700 to go toward children and adults with neuromuscular diseases. Funds from this event will remain in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties and be used to send children to summer camp, repair durable medical equipment, and support comprehensive patient services program.

**Nationwide Emergency Alert.** On Wednesday November 9, at 11 a.m. PST, there will be a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The test will last for 30 seconds. During this period, regularly scheduled television, radio, cable, and satellite shows will be interrupted as the system is being tested. The City encourages the public to use this event as a reminder to establish an emergency preparedness kit and plan.

## Library

**Read for the Record.** The Santa Barbara libraries participated in Read for the Record, an annual event to promote early childhood literacy. Library staff presented “Llama, Llama Red Pajama,” this year’s nationwide read-aloud book, during story time. Central Library outreach staff distributed 500 free donated copies of this year’s book to children at local preschools. Book give-aways promote a literacy-rich environment for children who do not always have access to books in their homes. Several preschoolers visited the Library requesting more books about the spirited Llama character!

**Sign up for the Library eNewsletter . . .** to receive information on special performances for children, library programs for adults, and new products available through the Library. Over 3700 patrons have already signed up for the monthly [newsletter](#).

**Verizon Grant.** The Library would like to thank all the patrons, volunteers, and City employees who helped the Library compete for one of Verizon’s *Check Into Literacy* grants. Although the Santa Barbara Public Library was not among the charities with the most votes, the

enthusiastic participation of so many in our community demonstrated the strong support for literacy and library services in Santa Barbara.

## Parks and Recreation

***Permeable Pavers Installed at MacKenzie Park.*** The City recently completed the replacement of the parking lot at MacKenzie Park at State Street and Las Positas Road. [Permeable pavers](#) were installed in the parking stalls, allowing storm water and urban runoff, typically major sources of creek and ocean pollution, to infiltrate the ground. This project is designed to detain and treat the volume of water generated from a one inch, 24-hour storm event and to keep pollutants like hydrocarbons, fine sediments, metals, and nutrients from reaching the creeks and ocean.

***New Mural at Bohnett Park.*** The Santa Barbara Arts Alliance, a free art-based mentoring program for low-income youth ages 14-18, will be painting a mural at Bohnett Park on the exterior and interior of the restroom walls. This location is regularly vandalized, costing the city hundreds of dollars on a yearly basis, and this mural project seeks to deter graffiti vandalism.

***Get in Shape for the Holidays.*** Parks and Recreation offers over 15 popular dance and fitness classes at the convenient downtown Carrillo Recreation Center. No partner required and fun is guaranteed! You can [register online](#) or at the first class session. For information, call 897-2519.

***Applications Currently Accepted for Harriet Miller Youth Leadership Award.*** The City is currently [accepting applications](#) for the 2012 Harriet Miller Youth Leadership Awards Scholarship, given to an outstanding high school senior in the Santa Barbara area. The application deadline is January 4, 2012. For questions regarding the scholarship, contact Ashleigh Davis, Downtown Organization, at 962-2098, ext. 22; or Susan Young, Neighborhood Outreach Services at 897-2652.

## Police

***Homicide Suspect Arrested in Mexico.*** In May 1984, Miguel Godoy Morales was suspected of stabbing a man on Olive Street. Godoy then fled to Mexico in order to avoid arrest. In 2004, Santa Barbara Police detectives filed an Article 4 case against Godoy that gives Mexican authorities the legal right to arrest and prosecute him in Mexico for the homicide committed in Santa Barbara. Authorities spent several years attempting to locate Godoy. On October 12, agents from the Baja California Norte, Policia Estatal Preventiva (PEP) located Godoy working on a disabled vehicle in a commercial parking lot near his residence. Godoy was arrested without incident and flown to Mexico City for detention. Godoy is now awaiting trial for the homicide he committed in Santa Barbara in 1984.

***Four Suspects Arrested for Multiple Residential Burglaries.*** Four suspects accused of committing residential burglaries in Santa Barbara and Goleta have been arrested. Santa Barbara Police property detectives had been working on a series of residential burglaries and received information about one of the suspects. Santa Barbara Police and the Ventura County Sheriff set up a joint surveillance on the suspect. Detectives were able to locate the suspect and three other others immediately after they had committed a residential burglary in Goleta. The



suspects admitted to several residential burglaries. The Santa Barbara Police, Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department, and the Ventura Sheriff's Office are continuing the investigation to identify more victims. All suspects were booked into the Santa Barbara County Jail.

***Police Activities League (PAL) November Events.*** PAL will conclude the first season of junior high sports with a boys basketball tournament on November 19 at Santa Barbara City College and a girls soccer tournament on November 20 at La Colina Junior High. PAL is offering classes at the Twelve35 Teen Center (1235 Chapala Street), including hip-hop, salsa, CrossFit, knitting, animation, photography, and music production. Throughout November, PAL will be hosting a toy drive for the annual holiday dinner for 150 low-income families.

## Public Works

***El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements.*** The Headwork Screening Replacement project is now underway to replace filtering components and integrate controls for the new equipment into the existing system. The project is scheduled to be complete in August 2013. Construction has completed for the Booster Pump Installation Project for the belt presses. Installing two booster pumps on each of the two belt presses at El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant will increase efficiencies of the sludge drying process. The City's wastewater treatment plant is almost thirty years old, and these projects will allow the plant to continue to treat wastewater, protect the environment, and improve energy efficiency. For additional [information](#), contact Amanda Flesse at 568-1038.

***Access Ramp Project Update.*** A sidewalk access ramp will be constructed on Coast Village Road; this year, other ramps have been installed at Calle Laureles, Mission at Modoc, and Quinto Street. The access ramp eliminates the six-inch curb and allows pedestrians with disabilities, families with young children, and seniors easier access to crosswalks. The City installs sidewalk access ramps at locations that do not currently meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. For further [information](#), contact Ken Young at 560-7568.

***Ortega Bridge Replacement Update.*** Progress continued on the Ortega Bridge Replacement project with installation of the pre-cast bridge deck and a new water main on Ortega Street, between Bath and Castillo Streets. In November, construction will focus on Ortega Street roadway improvements. Crews will excavate and replace the roadway, driveways, and sidewalks near the bridge. Landscaping will also be installed on the creek banks. Bridge construction is expected to continue into 2012. For further [information](#), contact Adam Hendel at 729-6005.

***Dennis Allen named the City's First Water Hero.*** Dennis Allen has been named the City's first Water Hero for his downtown LEED Platinum residential development, Victoria Garden Mews. The four-unit condo development showcases many advances in water conservation such as high-efficiency appliances and a water-wise landscape. Rainfall directed into gutters leads to a 14,000 gallon rubber "bladder" in the basement that filled up over last year's winter rains and still has enough water to continue irrigating this fall. The Victoria Garden Mews project is a model for Santa Barbara that highlights the attainability of sustainable development with very little water use. Congratulations, Dennis, on being a Water Hero!

## Waterfront

***Stearns Wharf Christmas Tree.*** For the fourth consecutive year, the Stearns Wharf Business Association will sponsor a 25-foot White Fir tree on the Wharf. The City is coordinating with Oliver Holt Christmas Trees for delivery and installation. The tree will be on display from November 26 until the first week of January.

***Waterfront Parking Permits Available Soon.*** Annual Waterfront parking permits will be available for purchase in December. General permits cost \$95 and slip-holder permits (one per slip) cost \$70. Permits are valid from the date of purchase through December 31, 2012. The Waterfront Department encourages residents and slip holders to purchase the 2012 permits early for a whole year of economical parking. General permits are available at the Harbormaster's Office and all parking kiosks, except Stearns Wharf. Slip-holder permits may only be purchased at the Harbormaster's Office. For more information, call 897-1965.

***26th Annual Parade of Lights.*** The 26th Annual Parade of Lights will take place Sunday, December 11, with a theme of "Candy Cane Holidays." Festivities begin from 3 to 5 p.m. with a Santa's Village featuring Santa himself, snow, and holiday music. Deep Sea Wine Tasting will host the judging party on Stearns Wharf while distinguished judges and thousands of spectators cheer on the boats at 5:30 p.m. A short fireworks display will follow the parade. The awards ceremony will take place at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, and a list of winners will be posted [online](#).